



Inside Ag

June 2009

Labeling of Livestock Feed

The Colorado Feed Law requires that feed distributed within the state include certain information on the label. This requirement ensures that when you buy animal feed, you have the information to make comparisons between similar feeds to choose the one best suited to your needs. This is accomplished through information required in the purpose statement, ingredient statement, the net quantity statement, and the guaranteed analysis and directions for use.

The purpose statement informs you of the species and stage of production the feed is meant to be given to. "For meat goats on pasture" is an example of a purpose statement.

The ingredient statement supplies the purchaser with a complete list of all ingredients included in the feed, listed in order of the amount in the product. The guaranteed analysis section is the guarantee to the purchaser of the amount of nutrition the product will supply to the animal that is being fed.

A properly formatted label also ensures that you have the information needed to safely and effectively use the feed as intended. The medicated feed/drug purpose statement lets you know what medication is in the feed, the concentration of that medication and the reason it was included in the feed. The directions for use are also important in letting you know how much of the feed to use to achieve the desired results.

Warning and caution statements make you aware of any limitations on using the feed, such as withdrawal times that are necessary before using the animals for food, warnings of problems when the feed is given to other species, or any other limitations on the use of the product. "Do not feed to ruminants" is a common caution statement found on feeds containing ingredients that are prohibited from being fed to cattle, such as bovine meat and bone meal.

The statement of responsibility supplies the purchaser with the contact information for the person or company guaranteeing the feed.

Click here for more information on [Livestock Feed Labels](#) and to view a sample label.

Inspectors from the Colorado Dept. of Agriculture routinely review feed product labels for compliance with the established regulations. Labels must not contain any claims that are untruthful or misleading in any way.

For more information on Colorado's Feed program, please visit the Colorado Department of Agriculture's [Feed Program website](#).